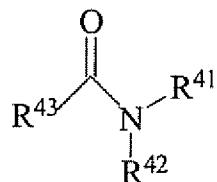


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A photothermographic material comprising, on one side of a support, a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive silver salt of an organic acid, a reducing agent for silver ions and a binder, which is characterized by containing at least one phenol compound as the reducing agent and

at least one compound having a hydrogen bond formation rate constant K_f that is 20-4000, and which is represented by the following formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein:

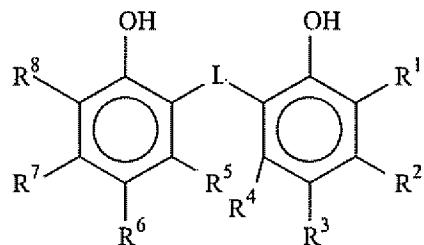
and in the formula (IV), R⁴¹ and R⁴² independently represent an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, R⁴³ represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group or N-(R⁴⁴)(R⁴⁵) where R⁴⁴ and R⁴⁵ independently represent an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group,

wherein R⁴¹ and R⁴² which independently represent an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, may be taken together to form a ring, and

when R⁴³ represents -N(R⁴⁴)(R⁴⁵), then R⁴⁴ and R⁴⁵, each independently representing an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, may be taken together to form a ring or

at least one of R⁴¹ and R⁴², each independently representing an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, and at least one of R⁴⁴ and R⁴⁵, each independently representing an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, may be taken together to form a ring.

2. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the phenol compound is at least one o-polyphenol compound represented by the following formula I



(I)

wherein R², R⁴, R⁵, and R⁷ are hydrogen atoms, R¹ and R⁸ represent an alkyl group and R³ and R⁶ represent an alkyl group, and L represents a group -CHR⁹- where R⁹ represents a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, an ethyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-propyl group, a heptyl group, a 1-ethylpentyl group, and an undecyl group.

3. (Original) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant Kf is 70 to 4000.

4. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant Kf is 100-4000.

5. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant Kf is 250-2000.

6-9. (Canceled)

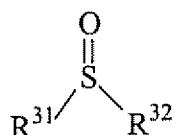
10. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of the phenol compound is 0.01-40 g/m².

11. (Previously Presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of said at least one compound is 0.01-40g/m².

12. (Currently amended) A photothermographic material comprising, on one side of a support, a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive silver salt of an organic acid, a reducing agent for silver ions and a binder, which is characterized by containing at least one phenol compound as the reducing agent,

a metal or metal complex of Group VIII to Group X in the periodic table of elements,
a polyhalogenated compound and

at least one compound having a hydrogen bond formation rate constant Kf that is 20-4000, and which is represented by the following formula (III):

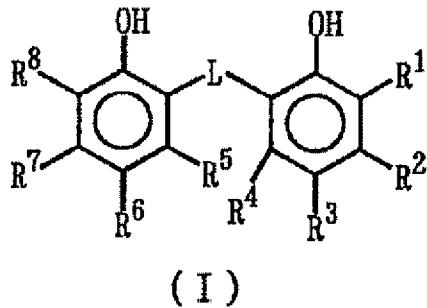


(III)

wherein:

in the formula (III), R³¹ and R³² independently represent an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, and R³¹ and R³² may be taken together to form a ring,

wherein the phenol compound is at least one o-polyphenol compound represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R², R⁴, R⁵ and R⁷ are hydrogen atoms, R¹ and R⁸ represent an alkyl group and R³ and R⁶ represent an alkyl group, and L represents a group -CHR⁹- where R⁹ represents a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, an ethyl group, an isopropyl group, an n-propyl group, a heptyl group, a 1-ethylpentyl group, and undecyl group.

13. (Previously presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 12, wherein the metal or the center metal of the metal complex of Group VIII to X is rhodium, rhenium, ruthenium, osmium or iridium.

14. (Previously presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 12, which contains two or more kinds of the metal and/or the metal complex of Group VIII to X.

15. (Previously presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 12, wherein the photosensitive silver halide has been subjected to chemical sensitization.

16. (Previously presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 15, wherein the chemical sensitization is sulfur sensitization, selenium sensitization or tellurium sensitization.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 12,

wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant Kf is 70 to 4000.

20. (Previously presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 12,
wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant Kf is 100 to 4000.

21. (Previously presented) The photothermographic material according to Claim 12,
wherein the hydrogen bond formation rate constant Kf is 250 to 2000.